

Recovery Plan Action Status

Plan Name: Draft Recovery Plan for the Columbia Basin
Distinct Population Segment of the Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)

Plan Status: Draft

Plan Date: 07-Sep-07

Lead Agency: USFWS

Lead Office: Washington Fish And Wildlife Office

(360)
753-9440)

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	1	Manage captive breeding program for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park	Management: Captive Standards and Veterinary Care, Management: Disease Control, Management: Planning, Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Propagation, Management: Reintroduction, Research: Demographic Studies, Research: Dietary Studies, Research: Disease, Research: General, Research: Genetics, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Propagation, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	Likely small captive population maintained at Oregon Zoo through 2012 breeding season (~June); captive propagation activities also likely to occur in soft release facilities on site at Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area.

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	10	Revise the Federal Recovery Plan to facilitate implementation of adaptive management measures considered necessary to achieve the phased recovery strategy.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Management: Captive Standards and Veterinary Care, Management: Depredation Control, Management: Disease Control, Management: General, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Planning, Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Predator and Competitor Control, Management: Propagation, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration	Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	Amended 2007 Draft Recovery Plan in May 2011; tentatively will finalize plan in 2012; continuing need to further revise plan will be reevaluated in 2015.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	3.1	Search for any remaining wild subpopulations.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: General, Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Demographic Studies, Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Reintroduction	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	No wild Columbia Basin subpopulations currently known, surveys are ongoing.

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	3.2	Monitor free-ranging subpopulations and document their status annually.	Ongoing Current	FY 2011		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: General, Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Predator and Competitor Control, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Demographic Studies, Research: General, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Population Surveys, Research: Predation, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	No wild subpopulations are known to occur; surveys of recently reintroduced captive-bred pygmy rabbits and their progeny are ongoing.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	3.3	Monitor and manage the molecular diversity of free-ranging subpopulations	Ongoing Current	FY 2011		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Research: Genetics, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Propagation, Research: Reintroduction	Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Species Expert	Interbreeding under field conditions initiated; collection and assessment of samples from released progeny to take place fall 2011.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	4.1	Continue to manage established recovery emphasis areas.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Acquisition, Acquisition: Easement, Acquisition: Exchange, Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Reintroduction	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	4.2	Prepare release sites at recovery emphasis areas for reintroduction and/or augmentation of captive-bred and translocated wild pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Zoo, Washington State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Management: Depredation Control, Management: Disease Control, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Volunteer	Cultural surveys completed; construction of second large soft release enclosure currently underway.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	4.3	Conduct reintroduction, augmentation, and/or translocation efforts at the highest priority recovery emphasis area(s).	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Soft release of captive-bred pygmy rabbits and one wild pygmy rabbit translocated from Oregon began May 2011; additional releases of captive-bred and translocated wild animals to take place at Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area fall 2011.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	4.4	Monitor survival and movements of all captive-bred and translocated wild pygmy rabbits released within the Columbia Basin.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Demographic Studies, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Population Surveys, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	No wild Columbia Basin subpopulations currently known; survey and monitoring of recently released captive-bred and translocated wild pygmy rabbits is ongoing.

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	4.5	Continue to investigate, identify, and address existing constraints or management needs of recovery emphasis areas and, as feasible, intervening properties that support additional occupied habitats or identified dispersal corridors of newly released Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: General, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	4.6	Continue to assess and identify appropriate sizes, number, distribution, and configuration of free-ranging subpopulations necessary to delist the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit pursuant to the Act, and define criteria that would demonstrate that threats to the population are sufficiently ameliorated.	Ongoing Not Current	FY 2014		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: Population Monitoring, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Population Surveys, Research: Reintroduction	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Costs incurred 1 year in 5.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	4.7	As necessary to account for survey and monitoring results and development of adaptive management measures, update the Reintroduction and Genetics Management Plan.	Ongoing Current			Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: Planning, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Management Techniques, Research: Reintroduction	Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	5.1	Evaluate and address, as feasible, the potential effects of predators on free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Management: Predator and Competitor Control, Management: Reintroduction, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Predation, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Survey, assessment, and, as appropriate, control of potential predators is ongoing.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	5.2	Identify and minimize effects of human activities on Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits at recovery emphasis areas and, as feasible, intervening properties.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	6.1	Continue to investigate and refine estimates of the quantity and quality of habitats needed to support a viable subpopulation of free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	The need to continue investigating and refining habitat estimates will be reduced as subpopulations become reestablished. Long-term needs will be reevaluated in 2015.

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	6.2	Protect habitats at recovery emphasis areas and, as feasible, intervening properties.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Acquisition: Easement, Acquisition: Exchange, Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	6.2.1	Monitor changes in habitats through remote sensing, ground surveys, and mapping.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	Costs incurred 1 year in 5.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	6.3	Continue to investigate and, as available, implement enhancement and restoration measures to improve habitat quantity and quality for Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit subpopulations at recovery emphasis areas.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Other: Administration, Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	6.4	Document methods, treatments, timing, and results of all habitat enhancement, restoration, and protection projects undertaken for free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits and maintain those records to facilitate long-term habitat monitoring.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	6.5	Continue to identify, assess, and prioritize potential recovery emphasis areas and, as appropriate, formally establish and provide recommendations to address habitat management needs at these sites.	Ongoing Not Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Other Federal Agencies, Prospective Safe Harbor Agreement Participants	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	Costs incurred 1 year in 5. The need for identifying and formally establishing potential future recovery emphasis area(s) will be evaluated in 2015.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	7.1	Develop Site Plans under the existing Agreement and issue associated Permits to non-Federal and non-WDFW land owners and managers of eligible properties whose ongoing management may provide a conservation benefit for recovery efforts, yet whose land use practices may also result in incidental take of free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Other Federal Agencies, Prospective Safe Harbor Agreement Participants	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Contract, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	7.2	Develop and provide guidelines and technical assistance to interested land owners and managers to address management practices that could potentially affect free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Other: Administration, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	7.3	Assist non-Federal and non-WDFW land owners and managers with developing new HCPs, or otherwise assist with participation in existing HCPs, with regard to management practices that may result in incidental take of free-ranging Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Foster Creek Conservation District	Acquisition: Management Agreement	Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	7.4	Continue to coordinate recovery efforts with various Federal agencies pursuant to the requirements of section 7 of the Act and, as opportunities arise, develop and implement cooperative agreements to address Federal conservation initiatives for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Acquisition: Management Agreement, Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Administration, Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Management Techniques	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	2	8	Exchange information with stakeholders and the general public to address concerns and increase support for Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recovery efforts.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners and Managers, Other Federal Agencies, Foster Creek Conservation District, Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Participants, Prospective Safe Harbor Agreement Participants	Management: General	Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance	Long-term information exchange and outreach needs will be evaluated in 2015.
Pygmy Rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis)	1	9	Secure funding for Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recovery efforts.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Other Federal Agencies	Management: General, Other: Administration	Internal Administrative, Internal Technical Assistance	Continuing efforts to secure long-term funding will be evaluated in 2015.